

## Policy: Charter of Rights for Children and Young People

### Policy Purpose

To understand the vital role the charter plays in protecting the rights of children in the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) care, and our obligations under the charter.

### Policy Statement

The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* is a Convention in international law that has been agreed to by 191 countries, including Australia, and outlines the basic human rights that apply to all children, across all countries of the world.

The Charter of Rights (the Charter) is for all children and young people in out of home care in the Northern Territory and is consistent with the rights outlined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* and the *National Standards for Out of Home Care*.

The Charter draws special attention to the rights of children who live in out of home care and helps to promote their rights. It lists the rights every child in out of home care can expect to have, the things they should be able to do and what they can expect from the people who care for them. Its implementation demonstrates the commitment of the Department to ensuring children in out of home care know their rights, understand them, and for their rights to be promoted by the people who care for them.

The Charter of Rights was developed with input from children and young people who are in care and young people who have left care. Their voices are represented by the words used to explain the rights contained in the Charter.

Under section 68A of the *Care and Protection of Children Act*, Case Managers must provide all children and young people with a copy of the Charter of Rights as soon as practicable after they come into out of home care. Their rights must be explained to them in age appropriate language.

If the Case Manager determines that the child is too young, or lacks the maturity to properly understand and discuss their rights, a copy of the Charter should be provided to their Carer. The child's rights should still be promoted through the care they receive, casework and their Care Plan.

It is also a Case Manager's responsibility to ensure that the child or young person is aware of the complaint process and role of the Children's Commissioner, and understands who to contact if they have questions or concerns about their rights.

### Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act](#)

[Charter of Rights for Children in CEO's care](#)

### Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6](#)

Authorised by:

<b>Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:</b>	16/03/2015	<b>Active from:</b>	16/03/2015
<b>Version 1.0</b>	To understand the vital role the charter plays in protecting the rights of children in the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) care, and our obligations under the charter.		

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<b>Update:</b>	Rebranded. Caseworker to Case Manager		